

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NASA-01 /033 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2684

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5295

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TSPA IN

SUBJECT: STATUS OF INSAT PROCUREMENT

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 4484, (B) STATE 082123

1. HUGHES EMPLOYEE IN NEW DELHI S. RAMJI REPORTED TO SCICOUNS ON DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRO PERSONNEL ON THE STATUS OF THE INSAT PROCUREMENT. HE WAS TOLD THE FOLLOWING: THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) IS NEARLY COMPLETE. THE RFP MAY INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT A LOCAL MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD NOT BE USED. A PROJECT REPORT ON INSAT WHICH IS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE HIGH LEVEL CABINET COMMITTEE IS UNDER PREPARATION. PROFESSOR DHAWAN, SECRETARY FOR SPACE, HAS BEEN COMMUTING REGULARLY TO DELHI TO BRING THE NEW GOVERNMENT UP ON THE CURVE WITH REGARD TO INSAT. (MOST MINISTERS HAVE NO FAMILIARITY WITH INSAT.) ISRO HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL EXPECT AT LEAST A SIXTY TO NINETY DAY DELAY IN THE RELEASE OF THE RFP. ((THIS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN EXPECTED TO BE SENT OUT BY APRIL 1.(REFTEL A).)

2. RECENT CONVERSATIONS OF SCICOUNS WITH P. KANWAL, OFFICER IN CHARGE, ISRO DELHI OFFICE, INDICATED THAT DHAWAN DOES NOT PERSONALLY KNOW THW NEW PRIME MINISTER

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OR HIS SECRETARY. HE SAID THAT IN THE FIRST MEETING OF DHAWAN AND THE NEW PRIME MINISTER, DHAWAN HAD TO BRIEF THE PRIME MINISTER ON "WHAT SPACE IS"\* NOW THAT THE PARLIAMENT IS RECESSED DHAWAN WILL RETURN TO DELHI ON APRIL 14 TO CONTINUE HIS TUTORIAL WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND NEW MINISTERS ON INSAT. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER WAS IN JAIL DURING THE SATELLITE TV EXPERIMENT, SITE.

THE NEW COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER, GEORGE FERNANDES, WAS UNDERGROUND AND IN JAIL DURING SITE. END COMMENT.

3. KANWAL POINTED OUT THAT P.N. HAKSAR, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND MEMBER OF THE SPACE COMMISSION, WAS A "SOURCE OF STRENGTH" TO ISRO AND THE INSAT PROCUREMENT. HAKSAR HOLDS HIS JOB ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION TEMPORARILY SINCE HE HAS RESIGNED. ANOTHER VALUABLE SPACE ADVOCATE WAS THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARY AND MEMBER OF THE SPACE COMMISSION, P.N. DHAR, WHO HAS ALSO RESIGNED.

4. EMBASSY, AS NOTED IN REF B, MENTIONED IN REF A A POSSIBILITY OF DELAY AND EVEN CANCELLATION OF THE INSAT PROJECT. THERE CERTAINLY IS A DELAY IN THE RFP BUT NOTHING THAT HAS BEEN STATED PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY BY ISRO PERSONNEL INDICATES A POSSIBILITY OF CANCELLATION. IT WILL, AS ALREADY NOTED, TAKE TIME TO ACQUAINT THE NEW MINISTERS WITH INSAT. PROFESSOR DHAWAN CAN BE DEPENDED UPON TO DO AN EFFECTIVE JOB IN THESE PRESENTATIONS TO THE NEW MINISTERS AND PRIME MINISTER. RAMJI ADDED THAT S.M. AGARWAL, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPH IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION, IS PARTICIPATING IN THE BRIEFINGS AND HIS DEPARTMENT SHARES WITH ISRO A POSITIVE VIEW ON THE INSAT PROCUREMENT. SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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